Application Procedure

The application should be in the form of a letter to the Executive Director describing the subject of the proposed investigation, its significance, the proof in hand, further evidence needed and the approach that will be used to complete the project. An itemized budget and resume should be included along with samples of the applicant's published work. The Fund encourages aspirants to investigative journalism so persons without a "track record" should not hesitate to apply. Applications are treated confidentially.

A statement of intent is also required from a suitable outlet that the report will be published if the finished product meets expectations. The writer must be paid the publication's regular compensation for free-lance articles. While the writer keeps the fee, the Fund must know what it is in order to judge the size of the grant.

Applications for book grants are similar. A chapter-by-chapter outline is required. The applicant and a publisher must have a completed contract, the terms of which are to be submitted with the application. Unlike support of articles, the applicant must agree that if the book makes money over the advance, the grant will be repaid.

In weighing requests, the Fund tries to keep its support to what is essential to complete the proposed work. Requests for grants are reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors.

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Harold -
Re our chat, note
the application procedure.
We could explore what
self-publishing would mean.
HB

The Fund for Investigative Journalism

was incorporated in 1969 for the purpose of increasing public knowledge about the concealed, obscure or complex aspects of matters significantly affecting the public. Toward that end, the Fund makes grants to writers to enable them to probe abuses of authority or the ●●●

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● ● ● malfunctioning of institutions and systems which harm the public. Their reports — factual as distinguished from ideological or philosophical— are published in newspapers, magazines, as books or broadcast. In this way an informed citizenry can take corrective action.

The Fund exists because investigative reporting is often costly in time and other expenses; there is a high risk of failure. Commercial journalism generally doesn't cover those costs for free-lancers, the recipients of almost all the Fund's grants. Free-lance investigative writers often have the skills, dedication and specialized knowledge essential to a successful probe. Thus, the need for the Fund's financial support.

The Fund has awarded some 225 grants totaling approximately $250,000. Two grantees have won Pulitzer prizes; other writers have received national journalism honors for their Fund-aided work. Fifteen investigative books have been written with Fund support; others are in progress.

The subjects of Fund grants have covered a broad spectrum including environmental hazards, political corruption, invasion of privacy, organized crime, threats to civil rights, defense and foreign policy, and abuses of corporate and union authority.

Among the projects supported by the Fund are:

- Reporting the My Lai massacre and the attempted cover-up. Seymour Hersh won a Pulitzer prize for this probe.
- James Polk also received a Pulitzer for his extensive reports of illegal political campaign contributions, helping produce statutory changes.
- Jessica Mitford's examination of prisons that became "Kind and Usual Punishment," a widely-acclaimed book.
- The first detailed analysis for a general audience of the issues surrounding cable television, Ralph Lee Smith's "The Wired Nation."
- Brit Hume's investigation of corruption in the United Mine Workers.
- A coast-to-coast probe by William Brandon of the deliberate way in which Indian tribes are defrauded and victimized.
- Rachel Scott's articles and book, "Muscle and Blood," about unnecessarily dangerous working conditions.
- An inquiry by George Crile into fraudulent tax assessments in Gary, Indiana.
- Peter and Katherine Montague's reporting of the ecological consequences of giant power plants in the Southwest.
- James Healion's revelations of the police entrapment of two suspects and their fatal shooting in Connecticut. The Connecticut troopers were convicted of obstruction of justice.
- Victor Marchetti's detailed study with John Marks of the C.I.A., "The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," the first book the government went to court to censor before publication.
- An 18,000-word magazine cover article by Ronnie Dugger on government subservience to the oil lobby, costing the public several billion dollars annually.
- A landmark assessment of the competence of Washington-area judges by Harvey Katz, a trial lawyer turned journalist.
- National Public Radio's reports on laxity in health, safety and security conditions in the civilian nuclear power industry.

The Fund, a private foundation, is not endowed and depends for its support entirely on private donations, which are tax-exempt.
